APPEAL

FROM THE

BUCKLE TRADE

OF

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER,

TO THE

ROYAL CONDUCTORS

OF

FASHION.

LONDON:
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BUCKLE TRADE

THE ADDRESS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

WHEN a Branch of Manufacture or Commerce, of importance to the country, is in a ſtate of declenſion, an Act of Legiſlature has often ſtepped in to cheriſh, revive, and protect it.

Many urge the neceſſity of Parliamentary interference, in behalf of the BUCKLE TRADE, and adduce, as an example, the protection the Button-makers enjoy. The Managers of this buſineſs are anxious to acknowledge they are the votaries of Freedom, determined to follow no ſuch precedents, and know that the attempt would be the groſſeſt violation, and moſt palpable offence to the Guardian of their happineſs—LIBERTY.

The cauſe of the BUCKLE-MAKERS complaints, is too obvious to require the aid of ingenuity to illuſtrate. However ruinous the whim; however tender and effeminate the

THE ADDRESS.

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WHEN a Branch of Manufacture or Commerce, of importance to the country, is in a state of declension, an Act of Legislature has often stepped in to check, revive, and protect it.

Many urge the necessity of Parliamentary interference, in behalf of the Buckle Trade, and adduce, as an example, the protection the Button-makers enjoy. The Manufacturers of this branch are anxious to acknowledge they are the votaries of Freedom, determined to follow no such precedents, and know that the attempt would be the direct violation, and most punishable offence to the Guardian of their Inviolacies—LIBERTY.

The cause of the Buckle-makers complains, is too obvious to require the aid of ingenuity to illustrate. However various the whim; however tender and effeminate the

appearance of Shoe Strings, yet the cuſtom of wearing them has prevailed.

Not the greateſt advocate for Shoe Tyes imagines them of continuance, or ſays more of their eaſe than the man for Buckles could of their meanneſs; but in the intermediate ſpace, while this uſeful ornament is recovering its conſequence, the induſtrious mechanic, who has already felt the effects of the ſtagnation, is ſeriouſly diſadvantaged: hence it became the duty of the Trade to repreſent their ſituation to the King, and reſpective Branches of the Royal Family, the Leaders of Faſhion; which Repreſentation had the following conſiderations for its object:

As Arbiters of Taſte, their interpoſition was of importance:

As being kindly diſpoſed to the valuable Manufactures of this kingdom, their ſincerity was as little to be diſputed, as their intereſt in the proſperity of its trade; not to mention the many inſtances of particular patronization of it; and that no Philanthrophic man, and friend to his country, continue ignorant by the encouragement of Shoe Strings; through his example, he virtually takes a part in ſnatching the bread out of the mouths of thouſands of poor and induſtrious families.

To accompliſh this, the four Members of Parliament for the City of London delivered Petitions to the King and Queen. Alſo, accompanied by a Deputation, to the Prince of Wales, and Duke and Ducheſs of York. The Committee likewiſe delivered others to the Princeſs Royal, Dukes of Clarence and Glouceſter.

The end already anſwered, (independent of every noble and communicative aſſurance of ſupport) appears in the ſeveral Houſholds of the Royal Family; and if a Royal Heir, (for example) actuated by that genius of great minds—HUMANITY—makes his taſte ſubſervient to her cauſe, will any man glory in an oppoſite principle, and *reſiſt his example?* And does ſuch a one exiſt, who will condemn this undertaking, without underſtanding its object? or when underſtood, call it an infringement of Liberty? Equally unnatural and inconſiſtent; that man would be as ready to paſs judgment on Freedom, for her unvaſſalaged and contemptible ſentiments of Deſpotiſm.

Artificia Tueri.

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To the KING.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

SIRE,

TO pardon the indiſtinct expreſſion of contending affections, each preſſing to diſcover its loyalty and attachment to a beloved Sovereign—eſteem, gratitude, joy, and congratulation, all ſtrive with ardent emulation—it is our Parent and Protector, whoſe ſoul is his peoples, to whom we unboſom our cares, who feels for our woes, as ſenſibly as he participates in our proſperity.

Your Majeſty may have perceived the exceſſive uſe of Shoe Tyes, which is daily proving fatal to our trade.

The Button-makers have an excluſive Act of Parliament to protect their trade—the Buckle-makers anchor on the popular influence of your noble and illuſtrious family, full of the kindeſt diſpoſition to the intereſts of the people.

May your Majeſty live to ſee us many years in the poſſeſſion of our buſineſs, ſecured to us by the gracious interference of the Royal Family of Great Britain.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

DEPUTATION.

GEORGE SMITH,
SOLOMON HOUGHAM,
THOMAS LIDDIARD,
CHARLES ALDRIDGE,
WILLIAM EATON,
JOHN DAVIES.

SIGNATURES.

Rundell and Bridge,
Jefferys and Jones,
Nathaniel Jefferys,
Pratt, Smith, and Hardy,
James Spyers,
Janaway,
Thomas Ayres,
Bourne and Hawkins,
Green and Ward,
John Box,
William Drury,
Haynes and Kentish,
William Gray,
Timothy Davies,
S. N. Riviere,
James Gibbs,
William Nodes,
Theophilus Beavan,
Thomas Wallis,
S. Adams,
Daniel Durtnall,
George Price,
John Thomas,
James Roby,
Joseph Fisher,
William Andrews,
S. and C. Hougham,
Thomas Bull,
William Pearne,
Thomas Harper,
Charles Townsend,
William Plumley,
George and John Gray,
Samuel Davenport,
Matthew Bustard,
David Jennings,
Norton and Thornhill,
Charles Bartrum and Son,
William Hickman,
James Moulton,
George Metcalf,
Joseph Martin,
William and James Sutton,
William Yardley,
George Cotton,
John Simpson,
G. W. Wood,
Edward Goldsmith,
William Dudderidge,
D. Urquebar,
Henry Young,
J. C. Robarts,
William Ballantine,
T. Farborough,
J. Bates,
J. Henderson,
Joseph Egginton,
John Godwin,
G. L. Aull,
George Baxter,
William Watson,
William Purse,
Richard Thomas,
Thomas Barnard,
George Jefferys,
Peter and Michael Grayhurst
Edward Geensell,
Samuel Woolley,
Thomas Gray,
Thomas Sherborn,

Thomas Simpſon,
Charles Hill,
James Shrapnell,
Denis Jacob,
Joſeph Kirkup,
James Elliott,
J. Rutland,
Stedman and Vardon,
William Robins,
Thomas Oliver,
C. J. Symonds,
Charles Lacey,
Charles Storey,
Joſeph Weatherley,
Thomas Andrews,
John Grey,
Joſeph Browning,
George Shuter,
Thomas Harding,
Thomas Reynolds,
John Burgon,
Iſa. Roberts,
Thomas Clark,
John Brown,
Henry Jefferys,
William Bird,
George Burrows,
A. Kirk,
John Grant,
Eſſex and Co.
H. Higgs,
Clementſon and Co.
James Turner,
R. Chandler,
J. Sarbit,
T. Littler,
W. Cooper,
T. Aſkew,
T. Webſter,
J. Jacobſon,
J. Goſlin,
George Deane,
Richard Clarke,
Peter Wirgman, &c. &c. &c.

In conſequence of the Royal pleaſure communicated by the Secretary of State, that his Majeſty would, on Wedneſday the 4th of January 1792, receive from the hands of the four Members for the City of London, the aforegoing Petition, at the Levee, at St. James's; the ſame was accordingly preſented, and met a gracious reception.

The PETITION *to the* QUEEN.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE

BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS

OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE ſuſceptibility of your mind will too eaſily enter into a participation of our ſorrows. The concern you feel for the happineſs of his Majeſty's ſubjects, never ſuffers you merely to *dip* into the merits of their wants; ever on the enquiry after the people's good, deign to accept our confidence in the ſucceſs of our Petition.

Your Majeſty's intereſting yourſelf in our behalf, will employ the induſtrious, feed the poor, and revive the deſponding hopes of an inconceivable multitude of his Majeſty's ſubjects.

Your diſapprobation of Shoe Tyes, coming in your Royal preſence, will effectually re-inſtate us in our former bleſſings.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

The Earl of Aylesbury having tranſmitted to the Members for London, her Majeſty's appointment for receiving the aforegoing Petition at the Drawing Room, at St. James's, on Thurſday the 26th of January, 1792, the ſame was preſented, and moſt favourably received.

The PETITION *to the* PRINCE *of* WALES.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

YES—it has ever pleaſed your Royal Highneſs to keep your ears ~~perpetually open to the cries of the diſtreſſed~~. This application to your feelings, is of a magnitude that can only be relieved by Royalty and Princely influence: nor does it tardily fly for protection under your munificent wings. There, individuals have had their frozen hopes diſſolved by your complacent generoſity, and now ten thouſands by this Addreſs build their happineſs on the ſame noble diſpoſition.

The univerſal uſe of Shoe Tyes, deprives the induſtrious BUCKLE MAKERS of their trade; ſo numerous and extenſive are the Branches, connected with the Buckle buſineſs, that the very means of ſupport to innumerable families, are becloud-ed: the nature of the employ being confined to reſpective Branches of Manufacture, the poor cannot ſo eaſily turn their hands to other trades, requiring a more general knowledge. With ſubmiſſion they implore your Highneſs will introduce Buckles into Undreſs as well as Dreſs; and convince themſelves, their wives, and little ones, you cannot look friendly on the cauſe of their famine; on the contrary, they know your Highneſs will ever frown on it, and forbid Shoe Tyes your Royal preſence, the memento that threatens univerſal deſtruction to their Trade.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Lord Southampton communicated the Prince of Wales's pleaſure, to receive the above Petition at Carlton-Houſe, on Thurſday the 26th of January, 1792, from the Members for London, accompanied by the Deputation; when his Royal Highneſs very cordially aſſured them, that he ſhould always be ready, to the utmoſt of his power, to ſupport the Manufactures of this Country.

The PETITION *to the* PRINCESS ROYAL.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

TO ſuffer us to ſhelter ourſelves under the tendereſt ſympathy that can poſſibly adorn the female mind. A full relation of our troubles would be watered with the tear of ſenſibility, therefore we ſhall content ourſelves, aſſured of your moſt ſerious attention to the ſubſtance of our Petition, and inform your Royal Highneſs the increaſing wear of Shoe Tyes is accompanied with the loſs of a trade in which great part of the kingdom is concerned.

Now in vain the labourer looks for work, the family for food, and the circumſcribed manner of the employ, defeats the neceſſity of finding encouragement in any different buſineſs. Long have we been monuments of ſilent grief; our ſorrows reſume a new ſhape; deſpair has long confined them; now hope has given utterance, and we briefly aſſure your Royal Highneſs, if you mark Shoe Tyes with your diſpleaſure, and patronize Buckles, together with their Majeſties and your Royal Brothers and Siſters, we ſhall bleſs the goodneſs of the meaſure, and have abundant reaſons to commemorate, with grateful peals of acclamation, the annual return of the day which will ſhine ſo propitious on our wants.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

Through the introduction of the Earl of Ayleſbury, Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Royal, with great complacency and attention, honored this Petition, by receiving it from the hands of the Deputation, at St. James's, on Thurſday the 2d of February, 1792.

The PETITION *to the* DUKE *of* YORK,

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

HONOR, dignity and birth, are like the landſcapes when the luminary is behind a cloud, without the rays of beneficence tinging each diſtinction with its inherent brightneſs.

On your Royal Highneſs this grace has been profuſe, and ſhines with peculiar luſtre; ſo that from yourſelf and Royal Conſort, we have the moſt enlivened expectance of deliverance from our wretchedneſs.

We depicture to ourſelves your compaſſionate eyes, rivetted to our Petition, and believe, ere you read it through, the activity of your mind will form a reſolution in our favour. Forgive our anticipation and enquiries, if it will not ultimately be diſplayed.

Your Royal Highneſs has been an eye-witneſs to Buckles having carried the appearance of a ſtaple article of manufacture to this country; but now Ribbon, Leather, and Whipcord, faſten the Shoes inſtead: we humbly pray, by this Petition, you will diſcourage them, both militarily and domeſtically.

Will it pleaſe your Highneſs, for a moment, to conceive what immenſe numbers of perſons have ſpent the prime of their youth and manhood; entered into connections; encreaſed their

families, and embarked their all, having this trade for a dependance. Their hearts bleeding at the cruel inconſiderate capriciouſneſs of faſhion: difficulties and impoſſibilities riſe in quick ſucceſſion to defeat the probability of fixing in any other branch or occupation. The nuptial tye, pitiably relaxed by reiterated ſorrows: the children cry louder and more vehemently for food: the huſband unmanned: his wonted courage fails: the wife more delicately ſenſible, is not able to reſiſt one of the obtruding woes which croud into her mind. Few friends before! leſs than ever now: demands come quickeſt upon the moſt needy, often reminded of their bereaved trade, and no Philoſopher's ſtone to ſmooth the creditor's brow.

Now ſpread wide the happy cauſe, the proſpect changes; Hope, with chearing looks, advances. A letter from the Trade at large, informs them of an Application to your Royal Highneſs. Inſtantly they aſſemble, and congratulate each other they have ſo glorious a ſource of expectation! Hope, with magic power, appeaſed their hunger, removed their deſpondency, makes the Manufacturer's heart dance with joy, and the Duke and Ducheſs of York, echoes in their cups, toaſt after toaſt.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

The PETITION *to the* DUCHESS *of* YORK.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

TO receive the warm congratulations of a loyal and free people, it is with expreſſions of the deepeſt ſenſibility we welcome you to this happy and highly-favoured iſland, worthy your home; here our zealous wiſhes accompany you to the lateſt hour, aſſured a retroſpect will diſplay the effuſions of Engliſhmens regard, in a perpetual and unabated ſucceſſion.

Already your Royal brow is encircled with an auſpicious coronet, beaming with graces that raiſe the expectation of every Briton. Already has it attracted and encouraged us to lay our cauſe at your Royal feet; a cauſe in which the exiſtence of thouſands of families depend. With pleaſure we look at the propitious Union, that ſecures to us an acquiſition, that has both heart and influence to reſcue our trade from a total annihilation. Shall we with timidity reveal our wants to ſo much excellence? rather let us reflect back your own amiableneſs, and convince you we have placed our hopes on a ſure foundation, in fixing them on your Royal Highneſs. Without intruding on your noble indulgence, we unfold the nature of our ſupplication.

Twenty years, Buckles have been an increaſing flouriſhing trade, conſequently multitudes of families, year after year, inſenſibly became involved in its ſucceſs and continuance: during

the laſt three years, a fatality has rapidly increaſed—more than on the decline !—It has received its death wound, if the Leaders of Faſhion do not interfere. At firſt, Shoe Strings and Tying inſtead of buckling of Shoes, were introduced in a morning undreſs, and by degrees has now become ſo general over this kingdom, that the meaneſt individual has adopted it as a faſhion; but what is much worſe, and threatens to be far more fatal, the example is influential in foreign parts, where an immenſe and almoſt incredible trade was carried on in this particular line.

The revenue amazingly diminiſhed, a valuable trade all but loſt—before it is quite gone, an application to your Royal Highneſs ſmiles propitious on our ſituation, and our hopes revive. This trade once boaſted of returning Hundreds of Thouſands of Pounds, and fed Tens of Thouſands of Poor annually; and may be again invigorated by your Royal Highneſs's ſovereignty over our enemy. Faſhion has done this evil; but by your Highneſs's example, it may be enliſted in our cauſe.

The Buckles that are worn, are a moderate ſize, perfectly eaſy. In addition to this, there has been improvement on improvement, eminent for ſimplicity and eaſe. Thus every objection is ſurmounted, and the grand wheel of influence alone wanted to cauſe this trade to revive and flouriſh.

May your Royal Highneſs be pleaſed to eſpouſe our cauſe, and diſcountenance that bane to our ſupport, Shoe Tyes, among the elevated and noble circles you move in; and it will be highly conducive if your Royal Highneſs, in the greatneſs of your conſideration, wear Buckles yourſelf.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

On Friday the 16th of February, 1792, agreeable to appointment, tranſmitted by General Grenville, the aforegoing Petitions to their Royal Highneſſes the Duke and Ducheſs of York, were preſented by the four Members for London, accompanied by the Deputation, to his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, who made an handſome apology for not having been able to receive the Petitions before, on account of his attendance on the Court Martial at the Horſe Guards.

The PETITION *to the* DUKE *of* CLARENCE.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

IN addreſſing their Majeſties and your Royal relatives, we have allotted a large portion of our expectation to be placed to your Princely account. We have not loſt ſight of the greatneſs and philanthropy of your mind on a multitude of occaſions; we knew by our ſilence, we ſhould be robbing your inclination of an opportunity of being beneficial to Ten Thouſands of your countrymen.

The uſe of Shoe Tyes has created the moſt alarming appearances to our Trade. By laying this matter before an illuſtrious Prince, who has made our cauſe his own, in the defence of our country, we entertain that view of your Highneſs's magnanimity, that extends to our ſalvation and redreſs, in any ſhape. By ſtrenuouſly diſcountenancing Shoe Tyes, in the Nautical Dreſs, and among your friends, you will accompliſh our wiſhes, and conquer all the difficulties that at preſent oppreſs us. And your Petitioners will ever pray.

This Petition was on Thurſday the 23d of February, 1792, by appointment of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Clarence, received at St. James's, from the Deputation, with all the conſiderateneſs and friendſhip, that beſpoke his intereſt in the proſperity of the Buckle Trade; and by aſſurances, "That he was the laſt to encourage Shoe "Strings. The cuſtom of wearing them, he always conſidered ex- "ceedingly ridiculous and injurious to an extenſive Manufacture: "that he never wore them himſelf, or ſuffered any of his officers on "board to uſe them; and as far as he could ſerve the Trade, he ſhould "be always ready to afford it every encouragement; and on any fu- "ture occaſion, to ſee the Deputation, where his influence was want- "ing, to ſupport a Manufacture, ſo agreeable to his wiſhes."

The PETITION *to the* DUKE *of* GLOUCESTER.

[N. B. The ſignatures to this Petition are the ſame as to the King's.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE

BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS

OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it pleaſe your Royal Highneſs,

IN applying to his Royal Highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter, we are convinced he will manifeſt his near alliance to the Britiſh Royal Family, by his regard to the proſperity of the Britiſh Manufacture.

The other Branches of his illuſtrious Houſe are petitioned by the Buckle Manufacturers and Traders, pointing out the diſtreſſes, emigrations, and other concomitant circumſtances, inſeparable with the loſs of a trade, in which more than Forty Thouſand People are concerned.

As the famiſhed neſtlings look with anxious expectation for the return of the attentive parent, ſo our hopes are kept from being extinguiſhed by the tender concern you have always diſplayed to the intereſt of the nation.

The following narrative may illuſtrate our ſituation more forcibly than argument:

Mr. Snaith, the Banker, in converſation with Mr. Alderman Curtis, on this ſubject, ſaid, " a perſon applied to him as foot-" man." Mr. Snaith read in his appearance the *man* better calculated to *command* than *ſerve*; on which he queſtioned him.

The PETITION to the Duke of GLOUCESTER,

[N. B. The Opinions in this Petition are the Sense of the Body.]

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE

BUCKLE-MAKERS AND TRADERS

OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER.

May it please your Royal Highness,

IN applying to his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, we are convinced he will manifest his near alliance to the British Royal Family, by his regard to the prosperity of the British Manufacture.

The other Branches of his illustrious Blood we petitioned by the Buckle Manufacturers and Traders, pointing out the difficulties, obligations, and other concomitant circumstances, inseparable with the loss of a trade, in which more than forty Thousand People are concerned.

As the Gentlest methinks look with envious complexion for the return of the objective parent, to our hopes are kept from being extinguished by the similar concern you have always displayed on the interest of our nation.

The following narrative may illustrate our situation more forcibly than argument.

" 'Tis *true*, *Sir*, I was *bred to*, and *ſet up* in the Buckle buſineſs;
" but on its falling off, I *fell*, and from employing many ſer-
" vants, I am reduced to the neceſſity of becoming a ſervant."

The liberty of the ſubject is even dearer to us than our trade; conſequently we ſhall be the laſt to attempt an innovation. We conſider our countrymen have inclinations which, in general, they obey; and our Royal family humanely ſetting a precedent in favour of the Buckle Trade, will doubtleſs be followed by the ſame public ſpirit.

We therefore humbly pray your Royal Highneſs to embark in our behalf, and aboliſh the uſe of Shoe Tyes in undreſs. Your influence in the army is *great*; your example with the people will be greater ſtill in our favour, and we ſhall, for your generous and compaſſionate rejection of them, ſpeak in terms of the higheſt enthuſiaſm and gratitude.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

His Royal Highneſs the Duke of Glouceſter appointed Monday the 27th of February, 1792, to receive the Deputation with their Petition, and honored them with a conference, by minutely enquiring into the merits of their application; their Home and Foreign Trade; the time it has flouriſhed, and cauſe of its decline: and concluded, with aſſurances of his beſt wiſhes and ſupport, of a Manufacture ſo manly and ornamental, as Buckles.

AT a GENERAL MEETING of the BUCKLE TRADE, of LONDON and WESTMINSTER, held pursuant to Public Notice, at the CROWN and ANCHOR TAVERN, Strand, on MONDAY March 5, 1792,

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

THAT the PETITIONS and PROCEEDINGS thereon to their MAJESTIES, the PRINCE of WALES, PRINCESS ROYAL, DUKE and DUCHESS of YORK, DUKE of CLARENCE, and DUKE of GLOUCESTER, being much approved of, that the DEPUTATION do cause the whole to be printed and published.

G. SMITH, CHAIRMAN.